

Goodwin's Weekly

Vol. 27

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, FEBRUARY 17, 1917

No. 32

An Independent Paper Published Under
the Management of T. L. Holman

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After The War

Do not expect that Germany will do anything to provoke actual hostilities with the United States. She has troubles enough without that. We suspect that the French admiral is right: that Germany is gathering all her forces to make a supreme effort sometime in the near future; that she intends to marshal all her power, on land, in the air, and on the sea, to bring the war to a successful conclusion; and that if she fails, she will make another effort to negotiate peace. Should that transpire, she will not want the United States to take part as an enemy.

But if our present alarm results in stimulating our preparedness program to the point of an actual mobilization of war, it will be of vast benefit to the government and to our people. It will give all concerned a new knowledge of the nation's capacity to meet a real war's requirements. It will at the same time show in what we are weak, and supply a hint of what we most need by way of preparedness.

Already it has been made clear that our republic cannot any more live behind the Chinese wall of "no foreign complications." Our's is a world power and we are bound henceforth to have a deep interest in what the other powers are doing. Had a little common knowledge ruled in our trade relations with oversea countries during the past thirty years, New York would today be the world's commercial center. We should have had a great merchant marine and great financial enterprises in full swing in many foreign countries; and, more important still, these countries would have been acquainted with our ways, and our flag would have been as familiar to them as the British flag now is. Were that the situation now, there would be a general turning to New York City as the world's clearing house. These facts ought to be clear to our authorities by this time, so clear that they would finally prompt some sensible legislation.

Our great field should be South America. Our people produce so much that those states need, and they in turn produce so many commanding products that our country needs. They possess so much fine land that is now yielding nothing and which the poor of the earth would be glad to cultivate. They have so many cities, roads and bridges to be built, that long prior to this time our business relations with them should have been most intimate, and our connections and enterprises there should have been multiplied many fold.

During all the strain of the present war, Great Britain has kept her merchant ships running steady to those ports. She holds the trade of those countries as to be one of her chief assets. When the present war is over she hopes to resume the old program, to send a loaded ship

to, say, Rio; to add the freight to its original cost; to exchange the cargo for, say, coffee; to return the ship with her cargo to, say, Liverpool; there to exchange that cargo with freight from Rio added, for American wheat with freight added, and then send it to New York with another freight added.

All the time for a quarter of a century past, we have been submitting to that kind of business, and like blank idiots have accepted it as the right thing. And the foremost newspaper of New York City has kept saying that it was the proper thing to do. Will that business be resumed with the close of the war? It surely looks as though it would, for some nations are like somnambulists,—they walk with wide open eyes and see nothing.

The Progressive Leaders

THE inconsistencies of human nature are wonderful. Some years ago the Progressives led by Hiram Johnson took the great state of California in charge. Their slogans were "reform" and "progress." They won, with the result that the state has been robbed in a way that ought to send a hecatomb of the state officers to the penitentiary. They are the same ones that gave Wilson the presidency in 1912, and especially in 1916.

The moral of it all is this: do not rely implicitly upon men who suddenly become great reformers—with their mouths. Up to date the Progressive party has, to a considerable extent, been made up of men who, while shouting "Progress," have not had one thought in their mind that has not been prompted by a desire for personal gain, either of station or perquisites, or both.

In this we have no thought of local affairs. The election last fall made it plain that the dominant power of the state intended to resume business at the old stand, and gave notice that the man who, trusting to his abilities or services, spends money and time in an effort to obtain office is an idiot too dense to deserve pity.

But the Progressives who started out in 1912 to reform things are entitled to the supreme contempt of their countrymen.

It was a bold bluff intended entirely for personal aggrandizement, and it was founded solely on a belief that a misrepresentation of facts might, if sufficiently urged with bare-faced assurance, win. It resulted simply in putting the Democracy in power in 1912, and again in 1916, and our advice to the remnants of the party left is to go over to the Democracy, bag and baggage, and make its future fights in that alliance. Up to date, the whole bunch has been an omen of disaster to all the best interests of the country.

In Mexico

WHAT of Mexico? The more serious news from Europe and the submarine attacks on merchant ships on the Atlantic and Mediterranean have diverted attention from Mexico.

But the reports tell us that the poor wretches from that distressed country by hundreds are streaming over the line into Arizona and New Mexico, to escape the bandits that are fighting

each other at long range and living off the poor who have nothing left to give.

Sometime there will be a comprehension of the real facts which are that those poor creatures must be given a chance to earn a living in peace, and that the merciless blatherskites who are making a hell of that region must be suppressed. The further fact must also be recognized that there is not one honest thought on the part of those murderous loafers except to raise hades and live on the earnings of the poor.

This applies to Carranza as much as to Villa. They are all of the same class, and are simply at heart braggarts and loafers and looters. They are as unfit to direct the affairs of the government of a state as so many buck Indians. Their right place is in jail or on a reservation, for they have proven that they have not the first element of real enlightenment and progress in their depraved souls.

It would be a real mercy for the United States to take the northern tier of Mexican states under control, establish order and give the poor wretches there a chance to earn a living in peace.

As To Mine Taxation

WE believe that Governor Bamberger intends to be absolutely just in the conduct of his high office. But the governor is human and hence, not quite infallible. At the Progressive love feast on Monday night last he is reported as saying (amid an uproar of applause):

"I mean to put mining lands upon the same basis of taxation as other property of the state; not the price paid the state or the government, but the actual valuation of the property."

How is the governor to ascertain that actual value? By what the stocks are selling for today, or last week, or the possibility of what they will sell for next week? Can an actual value be reduced 75 per cent on a mere rumor cabled from Berlin or London?

Then the governor deplored the fact that the proposed infamous amendment to the constitution, which in effect placed the assessment of mines in the discretion of county assessors, was defeated, and added: "They spent \$30,000, I am told, in defeating the amendment."

Who spent that \$30,000, and how? We happen to know something about the inside of that fight and are disposed to seriously question the governor's statement. Besides, the people themselves defeated the amendment, and who would be so foolish as to maintain that the people, as against their own direct interests, could be bought and controlled at the polls for such a paltry sum. The statement is preposterous—and it is poor argument, as well.

As we view the situation, the vote of last November did more than merely defeat the proposed amendment; it absolved the Democratic party from keeping whatever pledge its platform carried to dabble further in an attempt to cripple the mining industry in Utah.

The governor is quoted further as saying: "The mining companies are not bearing their share of taxation. In Arizona last year the mining property was taxed on a valuation of \$261,-